

A. KOHN,

Comrade was interred in Rock Cemetery. Comrade Diercks of the A.S.P. officiated.

organisation, the first to gain control of the forces, with which the masters maintain their dominance, the second to carry on production in the new order of things. The economic organisation, however, must be upon a basis higher and having a wider view than the industrial base. It must be organised on the basis of the working class, which becomes—what the basis of industries never can—a social basis as soon as the idle class is abolished and society becomes a society of workers."

That quotation I heartily agree is not an anti-industrial one. Yet I maintain that it is too abstract. To be truly educational we must have more concrete specifications as to the nature of this proposed economic organisation.

For the way of life I cannot understand Moses Baritz's attitude and opinion to the Workers' International Industrial Union, and the industrial union organisation. The W.I.U. is a concrete and clear scheme that all can understand and adapt to the necessities of the working class.

On the other hand, I cannot tentatively put forward an idea of industrial unionism, which the W.I.U. clearly recognises, that is, a union which at all times conforms to the strictest principles of the phase of industrial development that is in each country. The W.I.U. recognises that "a mass-union organisation is the organisation of the class conscious," as specified by the S.P. of G.B. The W.I.U. has particular stress upon the necessity of education, along class-conscious and revolutionary lines. Therefore in the Preamble it constantly refers upon "the future of the working class, and on the political problems before us, as a distinct revolutionary political party governed by a revolutionary programme." The W.I.U. recognises that the educational force of the working class is a truly revolutionary political organisation. The whole trouble in Australia is that such a party is not yet an existence. It is only too true that both of the so-called revolutionary political parties in Australia, the A.S.P. and the S.P. of G.B., have in practice proved to be like a dead hand upon the industrial workers of that necessary economic organisation, spoken for by the S.P. of G.B. And I maintain that the S.P. of G.B. school in Australia has been a disturbing element of carping criticism rather than one of healthy and concrete suggestion as to the right line of action.

The W.I.U. in Australia have taken up the attitude that organisation must go hand in hand with education, and a recognition is growing that some form of unit (probably the District Councils) must function as the educational force, partly perhaps as a political organisation, but certainly as one of education, holding in view the idea of a Proletarian University which will be the counterpart of everything bourgeois wherein classes on industrial organisation and history, Revolutionary Politics and Tactics and the Science of Revolution will be learnt by the union of the thinkers and men of action in the real labour movement.

Had there appeared a Revolutionary Political Organisation to carry out such functions there would not now be the necessity imposed upon the industrialists to force the issue for such. The W.I.U. will out, grow in a solidary stature as it learns and also as it gains it will grow. It is for that reason that the W.I.U. has taken up the hard task of forcing the issue from the outside for the industrial economic organisation of the working class.

I will withhold further taking up of space to deal with points raised by the article in the "Socialist Standard" till I see the attitude Moses Baritz takes up in answer.

Yours for intelligent class organisation.
J. A. DAWSON.

* * *

(We will be extremely obliged if those taking part in any controversy in this paper will condense their matter as much as possible, as we desire room to devote to propaganda for the benefit of the wage plugs. With regard to Comrade Dawson's politics, we may find room in the next issue to reply to his STATEMENTS; we would much prefer to deal with a case, but will make the best of the job and deal with the vague statements that have been made. Then may be Comrade Dawson will show the REAL reason why he is a member of the A.S.P. when he does not endorse it.—Ed. L.S.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DELEGATES TO O.B.U. CONFERENCE.

Adelaide, March 30, 1919.

In your issue of March 22 appears a letter from J. P. Howard, a South Australian delegate to the O.B.U. Conference, and with his usual characteristics endeavours to create false impressions in the minds of your readers.

Mr. Howard takes exception to correspondence as an effort to injure his reputation as an industrialist. All I can say is where he is best known he has little or no reputation as an industrialist, and what little he had he has put aside for a more convenient occasion.

That I voted in favor of the scheme and against the preamble I do not deny, but I told the conference that in my judgment both the preamble and the scheme were well nigh perfect, but under instructions from the body that sent me there to move an amendment to the scheme I had to vote against the preamble.

Mr. Howard says he felt he had to sink his personal desire, being simply a delegate of the Adelaide Trades and Labor Council. Let me say that Mr. Howard's desire was to vote against the preamble, he sunk nothing in this respect.

The resolutions carried as instructions to delegates on that conference were as follows:—

"That the Australian Workers' Union be used as the foundation upon which the O.B.U. be constructed." Carried.

Second resolution: "That failing the acceptance of our resolution the delegates be instructed to support only those schemes which provide for organisation on the lines of One Big Union."

Now, Sir, had Mr. Howard any desire mixed with a little courage he could have under the resolutions carried, assisted in drawing up a O.B.U. scheme, but Conference found that he was not prepared to vote either for or against the scheme; in other words, he had not the courage of his convictions, he simply sat there as a dummy until the conference put the pressure on and made him record a vote, as the minutes will show, pages 106-7.

That Mr. Howard lost considerable time on the conference can be borne out by the delegates there.

That I am fast going into oblivion remains to be seen. The O.B.U. movement is fast gaining ground here, despite the miserable attempt of Howard and others to stop its progress, and we have issued a challenge to publicly debate the scheme with Howard or any of his friends, provided they are bona fide unionists, and up to the present none of the bold men are game to accept the challenge and show to the workers the fallacy of the whole thing.

Notwithstanding Mr. Howard's denial he did in my judgment commit a breach of faith to conference; they said that until the bodies we represented had considered the scheme, those minutes were not to be made public; but when two South Australian delegates returned their reports, we in an office not connected with the Trades and Labor Council, and were open to other than delegates, for their perusal, and the matter was the subject of debate long before the Trades and Labor Council had an opportunity of considering it.

There is nothing to hide, but Howard accepted the resolution without protest, and should have abided by it, but there, we never know where we have a man that shifts his ground from day to day to suit popular feeling for the time being.

Yours, etc.,
F. D. WILLIAMS.

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A. S. P.

NEWS AND NOTES.

BARRIER BRANCH.

The Barrier Branch is still diligently preaching the gospel of discontent.

The "Paris Commune" lecture was in the capable hands of Com. E. O'Shognessy. Further comment is unnecessary.

The following Sunday, Com. E. Trenwith was billed to lecture on "Economic Control," but owing to the mistake in advertising he did not appear. Com. E. Wetherell acted as substitute.

Mr. George Dale (author of "The Industrial History of Broken Hill") promised to speak on March 30th. Owing to sudden illness Mr. Dale was unable to attend, so Com. Wetherell again came to the rescue.

On Sunday April 6th, the A.S.P. audience had the pleasure of listening to Mr. R. Brenner, B.A., our newly-appointed W.E.A. tutor. His subject was: "The Philosophy of Karl Marx." The lecturer made several absurd statements regarding the Marxian theories. It is, of course, needless to add that the verbal attack which followed was anything but mild; time did not permit it to develop beyond the question stage, but Mr. Brenner has promised to visit us again at an early date and we will certainly reserve a place on the programme for the discussion.

The A.M.A. has drawn up a set of terms for the new agreement. The old agreement was a masterpiece. They are demanding, among other things, the abolition of night shift, the abolition of overtime system, six hour day—five days per week with a minimum wage of £1 per day. The above conditions to apply on surface and underground.

Broken Hill was recently honoured by the presence of Mr. Mason, a gentleman employed by the mining companies to promote a welfare scheme here similar to that which is making such headway in Port Pirie. We hope that this attempt to fall the lion of labor to sleep fails.

Word has reached here that Paul Freeman, an ex-Barrier Militant, has been badly treated by the Commonwealth authorities. He was arrested in Queensland and without the slightest semblance of a trial sent to Sydney where he was placed on board a boat bound for San Francisco.

On arrival there he refused to give any information regarding his nationality, so the immigration authorities refused to allow him to land. He was thereupon returned to Australia and is now in Darlinghurst goal. The daily papers tell us that Russia is the home of despotism and Australia the home of the free!

PRESS CORRESPONDENT.

Russia!

(To the memory of the Russian Comrades who suffered imprisonment and death that the Revolution might be accomplished.)

Men who fought through years of darkness
For the coming of the Light;
When the cause of Love and Freedom
Would dethrone the tyrant's might.

We have heard your glorious message,
Ringing through the weary years;
We have learnt the wondrous lesson
Paid for with your blood and tears.

We are waking Comrades, waking,
From our deep and troubled sleep;
You have sown the seeds of Freedom:
We, the golden harvest reap.

Hirelings low are we no longer,
Quaking 'neath a despot's frown,
We have torn the throne asunder,
Melted down the kingly crown.

Banished to a dark oblivion
Are the hovels of the poor;
Justice walks the common highway,
Gaunt-eyed Want is seen no more.

ENVOI.

Heroes in the march of Progress,
Giving all that Life could give;
In the grim relentless struggle
Dying, that the Cause might live.

Though the gallows-tree and prison
Were the measure of your gains;
BETTER FAR TO DIE FOR FREEDOM
THAN TO LANGUISH HERE IN CHAINS

The Australian :-

Socialist



Party.

OBJECTIVE.

The Social ownership and control of the means of production and distribution

HEADQUARTERS:

115 GOULBURN ST., SYDNEY, N.S.W.
A. S. REARDON, Gen. Sec. Treas.

BRANCH DIRECTORY.

Any Branch desiring matter published under the above heading, should write clearly what is needed, and forward same to this Office.

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Room 4 A.W.U. Building, 15 Flinders St.
Economic and Speakers' Class, every Thursday, 8 p.m.
Lecture every Sunday, 7.45 p.m., A.W.U. Hall.
Sunday School, Sunday, 3.30 p.m.
Library for Members.
Victoria Square, Friday, at 8.
Botanic Park, Sunday at 3 p.m.

BROKEN HILL.

Socialist Hall, Sulphide St.
All rebels making their way to the "Mill" will receive a welcome at the above address.
Every Sunday morning: Lectures.
Every Sunday night, 7.30: Lectures.
Study course of Scientific Socialism: Every Thursday night, 7.30.
Public Speaker Class.
Good Library for Members.

CORRIMAL.

Rebels on the South Coast, come along and link up with a scientific working class organisation. A welcome awaits you.
Meetings every back Sunday, 2 p.m.
E. R. BROWNE, Secretary.
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Lectures held every Sunday evening.
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NEWCASTLE BRANCH.

Room 23, second floor, Trades Hall, Newcastle.
Business meeting every alternative Monday night at 7.30. Lecture and discussion from 8.30 to 10.30.
Economic and Speakers' Class every Tuesday evening at 7.45 p.m.
J. MURPHY, Hon. Sec.

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Industrial History Class, every Wednesday evening.
Business Meeting every alternate Thursday evening.
Dance every Saturday evening.

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